



SYDNEY
WRITERS
FESTIVAL

LIVE & LOCAL

21st - 24th May 2026

Sessions from the
Sydney Writers' Festival Live & Local program
will be streamed live and direct from the stages of
Sydney to your local library.

Check out this program to find out what time
authors are speaking and which libraries are
hosting the sessions.

Book these sessions with your local library
or online via www.gvlibraries.com.au/events

Thursday 21st May

10.00am–10.55am The Future of Democracy: fighting authoritarianism with A.C. Grayling

Hear how Professor of Philosophy A.C. Grayling outlines the fragility of democracy in the face of rising authoritarianism in *For The People*, followed by a discussion chaired by Nick Bryant and Rosalind Dixon.

Presented in collaboration with the UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab.

Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton

12.00pm–12.55pm Yann Martel: *Son of Nobody*

Unravel ancient traditions of storytelling with Booker Prize-winning author of *Life of Pi* Yann Martel, as he discusses his new novel, *Son of Nobody* with ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols.

Presented in partnership with ABC Radio National.

Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Nagambie

2.00pm–2.55pm Stephanie Alexander: *The Cook's Companion* 30th Anniversary

Hear from Australia's beloved chef Stephanie Alexander on the 30th anniversary of her essential kitchen resource and one of our favourite cookbooks, *The Cook's Companion* with chef Adam Liaw.

Cobram, Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Nagambie, Nathalia, Numurkah, Violet Town, Yarrawonga

4.00pm–4.55pm Bringing the Past to Life.

Sink into stories from near and far in this festival favourite event with Robbie Arnott, Yann Martel and Tasma Walton, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Kate Evans.

Avenel, Euroa, Mooroopna, Numurkah, Shepparton, Nagambie, Violet Town, Yarrawonga

6.00pm–6.55pm David Szalay: *Flesh*

Hear 2025 Booker Prize winner David Szalay trace the evolution of his singular, propulsive novel *Flesh*, and the slowly unravelling life of its protagonist, with Michelle de Kretser.

Avenel, Euroa, Shepparton (bookings essential)



Friday 22nd May

10.00am-10.55am Big Histories

Revisit the past to find solutions for the present and future with bestselling author Amitav Ghosh and existential risk researcher Luke Kemp, with host Clare Wright.

Euroa, Mooroopna

12.00pm–12.55pm Susan Choi: *Flashlight*

Join 2025 Booker Prize–shortlisted writer Susan Choi as she discusses family, absence and alienation in her new novel *Flashlight*, in conversation with Beejay Silcox. Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia.

Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Nagambie

2.00pm-2.55pm Trent Dalton: *Gravity Let Me Go*

Join multi-award-winning writer Trent Dalton to discuss his latest novel, *Gravity Let Me Go*, and its themes of love, family, ambition and deception in conversation with Cassie McCullagh. Supported by Vision Australia.

Cobram, Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Yarrawonga

4.00pm–4.55pm Great Adaptations

Get behind-the-scenes insight into adapting stories from page to screen with writers Mick Herron (*Slow Horses*) and Suzie Miller (*Prima Facie*) in conversation with Benjamin Law.

Avenel (bookings essential), Euroa, Mooroopna, Numurkah, Shepparton, Tatura, Yarrawonga

6.00pm–6.55pm Florence Knapp: *The Names*

Explore the profound force of family and the life-defining act of naming a child with bestselling debut author of *The Names*, Florence Knapp, in conversation with ABC Radio National's Claire Nichols.

Florence Knapp appears thanks to the support of The Salon.

Avenel, Euroa, Shepparton (bookings essential)

8.00pm–9.15pm State of the Art: the Booker Prize.

Hear Booker Prize–winning and shortlisted writers read from their works and reflect on their journey to recognition. With Susan Choi, Roddy Doyle, Yann Martel, David Szalay, Charlotte Wood and host ABC Radio National's Kate Evans. Supported by the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and the Korean Cultural Centre Australia. Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

Euroa (bookings essential)

Saturday 23rd May

10.00am–10.55am Amitav Ghosh in conversation

Join acclaimed writer Amitav Ghosh to explore the themes of history, post-colonialism and environmentalism behind his rich body of work, including his new novel *Ghost-Eye*, in conversation with Michael Williams.

Euroa, Mooroopna

12.00pm–12.55pm The Future of Democracy: Trump's America with Jon Sopel

Join journalist and writer Jon Sopel as he considers how to withstand the forces eroding democracies worldwide, in conversation with Nick Bryant and Rosalind Dixon. Presented in collaboration with the UNSW Resilient Democracy Lab.

Cobram, Euroa, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Nagambie, Tatura

6.00pm–6.55pm Roddy Doyle in conversation

Listen as Irish author of Booker Prize-winning *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*, Roddy Doyle discusses his life's work and latest novel, *The Women Behind the Door*, with Kate Evans. Supported by the Consulate General of Ireland and Culture Ireland.

Euroa (bookings essential)

Sunday 24th May

10.00am–10.55am The Future of Truth

Join international correspondent Barbara Demick, philosopher A.C. Grayling, Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales and AI researcher Toby Walsh as they share their perspectives on the value of truth today, with ABC Radio National's Natasha Mitchell.

Jimmy Wales appears thanks to the support of Phillip Keir and Sarah Benjamin.

Shepparton (bookings essential)

12.00pm–1.00pm Power Up with Dav Pilkey

See Dav Pilkey (*Captain Underpants*, *Dog Man*) draw his beloved characters live and hear his inspiring life story. Prepare yourself for some hilarious onstage antics! Recommended for ages 6 years and older.

Shepparton

2.00pm–2.55pm Antoinette Lattouf: *Women Who Win*

Reflect on powerful examples of feminist victories throughout history with journalist and human rights advocate Antoinette Lattouf in her latest book *Women Who Win*, in conversation with Jo Dyer.

Euroa, Shepparton

4.00pm–5.00pm Mick Herron in conversation

Listen as Mick Herron reveals the details of the latest instalment in the *Slough House* thrillers, where theft, secrets and blackmail unnerve his band of failed spies, with Michael Williams. Supported by Vision Australia.

Euroa (bookings essential)